

July 21, 1988

TO: File  
FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *4/05*  
RE: Blackhawk Fines, Geneva Steele, M/021/008, Iron County, Utah

Wayne Hedberg and I visited the Blackhawk Fines, Geneva Steele site on July 7, 1988. The visit was conducted to inspect the Geneva Steele Iron Mountain holdings, of which Blackhawk Fines is one area. The Blackhawk Fines area was reclaimed approximately two years ago. It consists of three sections, an upper pad area, a lower shop and pad area and a main haul road.

The reclamation at this site, in all three areas, is poor. At the lower pad site and the upper pad it is very poor. The road reclamation seems to be more successful. Because this is an older site, no topsoil material was ever stored, so none was ever used at final reclamation.

The planting medium consists of a fine brown to black waste material from the old ore stockpiles. Because of it's color, and lack of nutrient, this material is a very poor planting medium. The predominant species growing on the lower site and upper sites are: russian thistle, halogeton and cheatgrass. Some, but very few, of the seeded species are growing there also.

The haul road seems to be doing better than the pad areas, mainly because the color of the soil planting medium is lighter. There are more species growing in this area from the planted seed mixture than any other areas on site. The predominant species growing along the haul road that were of a perennial nature, not a weedy annual nature were: indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirrel tail, yellow sweetclover, desert globemallow, alfalfa, palmer penstemon, rabbitbrush, snakeweed and prickley lettuce. Some of these species such as prickley lettuce, snakeweed and desert globemallow were obviously volunteer species and not planted.



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Roy Benson and I discussed the problem of the poor vegetative development on this site. We both felt that it may be futile to reseed this area because of the very poor nature of the planting medium. However, I did indicate to Mr. Benson that I would like to wait another year before making a decision regarding another planting of the area, or not planting at all. Roy did indicate to me that this area had been seeded two years ago when it was reclaimed and again in the fall of 1987. I asked Roy what date the seeding was done last year. He indicated to me that it was done about the middle of August 1987. This would not have been a good time to plant and expect good seed germination the following spring. The time was way too early for a fall planting. The early planting date may have played a significant factor in the lack of current vegetation.

jb  
cc L. Braxton  
W. Hedberg  
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